

**OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE ARC CHIEF EXECUTIVES GROUP**

**AGENDA**

**25 February 2022**

**08:30 – 10:30**

**TEAMS Meeting**

1. Welcome
2. Notes of Previous Meetings
3. Arc Updates
  - a. Transition Work Programme Update - presentation
4. Arc Health Collaboration – presentation
5. Programme Update – paper to note
6. AOB
  - Integrated Water Management Plan Progress

For Information:

Upcoming Meetings in 2022 (for information)

Plenary

- 11 March – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS
- 27 May – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS
- 01 July – 08:30-10:30 (possibly in person tbc)
- 30 September – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Chief Executives

- 25 March – 08:30-10:00 TEAMS (to be cancelled)
- 13 May - 08:30-10:00 TEAMS
- 17 June – 08:30-10:00 TEAMS
- 09 September – 08:30-10:00 TEAMS

## OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE ARC CHIEF EXECUTIVES GROUP

14 January 2022

08:30 – 10:00

TEAMS Meeting

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Arc Update & Future of Arc Leadership Group Discussion

- gave a description of the Arc group's current position and the uncertainty about its future.
- During the re-shuffle something odd happened when we experienced a change of SoS, in which most of the OxCam Arc team at DHLUC were moved on to different departments due to other huge priorities ( has moved on to design the UKSPF). The SoS decided he did not want a top-down set of housing work. He did decide he wanted to look at the area in a different way and that set off all sorts of conversations.
- There is definitely still an interest in govt in a locally-led set of activity if that is what the 'local leaders' want to do.
- There is no money available at the moment or from April 2022 until govt have been through a business planning process. is still intending on taking an 'Arc Body' thought through so that if it is decided the 'Arc' continues there may be a chance of getting some funds. This is the same situation for Midlands Engine.
- About 5600 responses were received to the ASF consultation. They have completed their review of the responses in which there is some great information which they are keen to share but they are currently discussing how they "package it up and publish it in the right way". They would like to put this info within the context of the govt announcement on the approach to the Arc.
- Despite the political challenges, the Economy group has no intention of stopping, whatever the future structure of the 'Arc' may be.
- Reinforces what said. From a LEP perspective they are continuing to work collaboratively. A 'Minerals and Waste Group' was recently set up.
- Re EWR and rumours of it being delayed or stopped. said it will be part of the cross-govt conversation as to what do we say if we are not having large, determined housing numbers, what effect, if any, does that have on rail business case.
- The purpose of the EWG was to establish the principles and framework for the environment and that relied heavily on the commitment of local govt colleagues and planning policy teams to go higher in terms of ambition about the environment in the Arc. Given where we are, the EWG do

not feel it is sensible to continue meeting at the moment. They may come together again as a group when there is more clarity.

- [REDACTED] Decisions will hopefully start at the end of this month at the Plenary on 28<sup>th</sup> January in how we move forward.
- [REDACTED] We will work and link with [REDACTED] up to 28<sup>th</sup> January to get as much info as we can.

### 3. Arc Budget Update ([REDACTED])

- We are near the end of our remit and have enough money to either keep going or transition over the next 6 months only.
- We are contributing towards the Internationalisation Plan along with DIT and we expect to launch in during May at UKREiiF.
- We would like to do more funding work around communicating some key themes that will continue on.
- Clarity is needed on our direction and whether we extend or not due to Arc team staff contracts and secondments that come to an end at the end of March 2022.

### 4. Programme Update [REDACTED]

- **Future Mobility** network starts up very shortly and the Arc Skills network is forming and developing alongside.
- **Strategic Place group** will be meeting next week.
- [REDACTED] – **Economy:**
  - There is strong engagement with partners across the Arc particularly from DIT with the Internationalisation work.
  - Conversations had with DIT on UKREiiF (similar to UK version of MIPIM) which DIT are going to be having a physical presence. There is a significant opportunity for us to line up the Internationalisation Plan launch with that event. Some modest financial support has been received from DIT and they have allocated some resource to it.
  - Four tender returns which will be interviewed shortly and that will give us the ability to drive the Internationalisation Plan.
- [REDACTED] – **Infrastructure:**
  - Continuing to move forward with great enthusiasm from all the work programme with people presenting and some good topics for discussion that goes through to the end of the year.
  - Hoping to sign off the Principles soon – this has been delayed due to the pause in the round of meetings.
  - We will need some resource moving forward.
  - The Minerals and Waste group is going from strength to strength.

- [REDACTED] – **Communications:**
- Supporting all the working groups with their requirements.
- Comms channels have been built including internal collaboration channels that are almost ready to go, when we are ready to go.
- For obvious reasons they have not been active publicly in the communications field awaiting clarity on our forward programme and commitments.

## 5. EEH Arc Update [REDACTED]

- Regardless of structure EEH is a partnership of every authority in the Arc.
- In the process of writing their business plans for April 2022 onwards – the draft will be going to their Board in February.
- DfT this week have given an extra £550K in funding to spend by the end of this financial year. This will be used to set up a major projects delivery unit which will benefit all Arc local authority partners and also to set up an active travel strategy.
- Working on EWR with DfT.

## 6. Arc Universities Group Update [REDACTED]

- “There is no greater joy than in the resolution of uncertainty”. We all have a lot of uncertainty. It’s difficult to move forward and to know what we are responding to or fixing to. We are teetering between collaborating or competing.
- [REDACTED] reminded colleagues that the AUG welcomes and embraces collaboration and they are determined to do something and to continue in some form.
- The things that have come out of this project are magnificent. There is a need from central govt to give people the confidence and to move forward and to continue and build upon probably 5 years work/20 years in the making.
- Expert papers – first draft being pulled together. These will be explored with the department and [REDACTED]
- Forming a student panel that will come together over the next few months with a webinar planned for the end of April.
- Working groups are powering ahead. Life Sciences is the most mature in its propositions, followed by Space and Aviation.

## 7. Upcoming Meetings in 2022 (for information)

### Plenary

- 28 January – 08:30- 10:30 TEAMS
- 11 March – 08:30-10:00 TEAMS

### Chief Executives

- 25 February 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Bedford Borough Council	[REDACTED]	Attended
Cambridge City Council	[REDACTED]	Attended
Cambridge and Peterborough Business Board and Combined Authority	[REDACTED]	Attended
Peterborough City Council		
Central Bedfordshire	[REDACTED]	Attended

Cherwell District Council		Attended
Oxfordshire County Council		Attended
Huntingdonshire District Council		Apologies [REDACTED]
Luton Borough Council		Apologies
Milton Keynes Council		Attended
North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.		Apologies
Oxford City Council		Attended
OXLEP		Attended
SEMLEP		Attended
South Cambridgeshire Council		Attended
South Oxfordshire Council		Attended
Vale of White Horse District Council		Apologies [REDACTED]
West Northamptonshire Council - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.		Apologies [REDACTED]
West Oxfordshire District Council		Attended
Arc Leadership Group - Director	[REDACTED]	Attended
Arc Leadership Group	[REDACTED]	Attended
Arc Leadership Group	[REDACTED]	Apologies
Arc Leadership Group	[REDACTED]	Attended
Arc Leadership Group	[REDACTED]	Apologies
Oxfordshire County Council - Environment Place	[REDACTED]	Attended
Universities Group Director (Arc)	[REDACTED]	Attended
Luton Council - Environmental Lead	[REDACTED]	Attended
DLUHC - Director General, Local Government	[REDACTED]	Apologies
DLUHC - Deputy Director	[REDACTED]	Apologies
DLUHC - Head of Spatial Framework	[REDACTED]	Attended
DLUHC - Comms and Engagement	[REDACTED]	Apologies
Leadership Group (Arc) Head of Arc Communications	[REDACTED]	Attended
NHS England - Regional Director of Strategy and Transformation, NHS South East	[REDACTED]	Attended
NHS England - Director of Strategy and Transformation	[REDACTED]	Apologies
EEH - Director	[REDACTED]	Attended
Greater Cambridge Partnership - Chief Executive	[REDACTED]	Attended
BEIS - Director, East Midland, Oxford-Cambridge Arc	[REDACTED]	Attended
Homes England - Head of Strategic Growth	[REDACTED]	Attended
[REDACTED] Arc Administrator	[REDACTED]	Attended

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**OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE ARC LEADERSHIP GROUP PLENARY**

**28 January 2022**  
**08:30 – 10:30**  
**TEAMS Meeting**

Bedford Borough Council			Attended
Bedford Borough Council			Attended
BEIS			Attended
Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority Business Board (CPCA)			Attended
Cambridge City Council			Attended
Cambridge City Council			Attended
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)			Attended
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)			Apologies
Cambridgeshire County Council	Steve Cox		Attended
Cambridgeshire County Council			Attended
Central Bedfordshire Council			Attended
Central Bedfordshire Council			Attended
Cherwell District Council			Attended
Cherwell District Council			Attended
Englands Economic Heartland (EEH)			Attended
Greater Cambridge Partnership			Apologies
Homes England (HE)			Attended
Huntingdonshire District Council			Attended
Huntingdonshire District Council			Apologies
Leadership Group (Arc)			Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)			Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)			Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)			Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)			Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)			Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)			Apologies
Luton Borough Council			Apologies
Luton Borough Council			Apologies
Luton Borough Council			Attended
DLUHC			Attended
DLUHC			Apologies
DLUHC			Attended
DLUHC			Attended
Milton Keynes Council			Apologies
Milton Keynes Council			Apologies
NHS England			Attended
NHS England			Attended

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North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.			Attended
Oxford City Council			Attended
Oxford City Council			Attended
Oxfordshire County Council			
Oxfordshire County Council			Attended
Oxfordshire County Council (and Cherwell District Council)			Attended
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)			Attended
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)			Attended
Peterborough City Council	Matthew Gladstone		Apologies
Peterborough City Council	Wayne Fitzgerald		Attended
South Cambridgeshire District Council			Attended
South Cambridgeshire District Council			Attended
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)			Attended
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)			Attended
South Oxfordshire Council			Attended
South Oxfordshire District Council			Attended
Universities Group			Attended
Universities Group			Attended
Universities Group			Attended
Vale of White Horse District Council			Attended
Vale of White Horse District Council			Attended
West Northamptonshire Council - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.			Attended
West Northamptonshire Council (New Unitary Authority - West Northants and North Northants) - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.			Attended
West Oxfordshire District Council			Apologies
West Oxfordshire District Council			Attended

1. **Welcome** [REDACTED]

2. **Forward Plan and Action Tracker** [REDACTED] Noted as accurate.

### 3. Arc Update & Future of Arc Leadership Group Discussion – Paper

- [REDACTED] team are still in the process of resolving a position on the Arc across government due to various things happening in govt including the Levelling Up White Paper.
- There does remain commitment from central govt departments that have been supporting the development ambitions of the Arc.
- A new funding vehicle in the future will be the successor to the European structural funds: the UK Shared Prosperity Funds. There is a strong case that this Fund should be allocated to local leadership and for local authorities to make plans for how they wish to spend it (Ministers are in discussions about how funds would be allocated).
- No update available regarding EWR.
- Ultimately it will be for the partnerships across the Arc to decide what it thinks it should be focussed on, rather than central govt deciding.
- **The recommendations were endorsed including to continue collaborating and go for Option 1 of the recommendations - to extend our programme until the end of September 2022.**
- [REDACTED] will build an updated programme and proposal over the next 2 months and present to this group on 11 March.
- Concern was raised about Para 17 suggesting clarification and transparency would be new – Leaders felt this should be already the case. [REDACTED] confirmed that if we are to go forward, we need to be more transparent in sharing our actions, progress and position to the public for their clarity. Use of dedicated channels is essential to do this

### 4. Arc Programme Updates – Paper [REDACTED]

#### Infrastructure [REDACTED]

- Shared Arc Infrastructure Principles (draft included with the papers). These were presented for endorsement but there was some view that they needed more work and refinement with more direct engagement of Leaders and Chairs.
- [REDACTED] will work to build on the good work of the Group so far to also capture consensus views from the Plenary.

#### Economy [REDACTED]

- Energy and Mobility – engaging with the sectors, particularly businesses and universities to drive these 2 areas - making significant progress particularly on Energy with Future Mobility just holding its first meeting but with a very diverse sector group.
- Significant progress with the Arc Internationalisation Plan. Interviews this afternoon for consultancy support. Launch of that plan, subject to agreement will be at UKREiF being held in Leeds in May.
- Strong work going with HE/FE and schools looking at career pathways and common skills barriers the Arc could help deal with.



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### **Environment** [REDACTED]

- Meetings were on hold due to the information void but after hearing the views of Leaders today the postponed meeting will be rearranged.

### **Strategic Place** [REDACTED]

- Awaiting feedback from DHLUC re ASF.
- Commitment around principles and shortly they will be getting some feedback into this forum once the LUWP comes into circulation.

### **Communications** [REDACTED]

- The Comms Group have not had the opportunity to meet given where we were but there is a full network meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February.
- A lot of work has gone on in the backgrounds around branding, ownership.
- Launching some of the tools that can help in the collaboration work to make information more publicly available and solve the transparency issues that have been raised.
- UKREiIF - May 17-19<sup>th</sup> 2022 (UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum) : We are looking for a presence at UKREIIF and we're also influencing the programme and putting forth some speakers.
- Looking at an Innovate UK event - cross Arc, working through growth hubs and other partners to shape the programme.
- *PS – timeline of current events provided as an addendum to these notes for information*

## **5. EEH Arc Update** [REDACTED]

- EEH has been spending much of its time with EWR which has undergone recent consultation on the details of the mid-section from Bletchley through to Bedford and then another consultation from particular routes from Bedford to Cambridge.
- There is some significant concern about where Treasury and DfT sit with the particular parts of EWR funding.
- Oxford-Cambridge Connectivity Study commissioned by National Highways could be completed by Summer 2022.
- EEH have secured an additional £550K from DfT to support a number of projects.
- Commenced work on 2 Arc connectivity studies.
- At the next meeting in February the Board will consider and agree the outputs for the regional bus study and the first phase of the active travel strategy.

## **6. Arc Universities Group Update** [REDACTED]

- A student panel is currently being formed.
- The expert papers for the SF, Green Economy, Resilience, Affordable Homes, Strategic Planning, Levelling Up which have been written by different academics are now all delivered – with workshops to follow at the end of March.
- There are webinars coming up at the end of February.
- Everybody is increasingly excited about the work with DiT and Internationalisation.

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- The effect of central government's silence has eroded confidence and interest, but the AUG is committed to moving forward.
- The AUG has a meeting shortly to discuss where to get more financial help to support their Arc team.

## **7. Upcoming Meetings in 2022 (for information)**

Plenary

- 11 March – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Chief Executives

- 25 February 08:30-10:00 TEAMS

**ARC LEADERSHIP GROUP OUTLINE WORK PROGRAMME**

Programme Theme	Project Delivery Group	Lead(s)	Progress	Timing	Status
<b>Economy</b>	Arc Economy Working Group	[REDACTED]	Arc Innovation Networks	Future Mobility, the first meeting took place and second meeting to define group's purpose and outcomes will take place in March	Energy Strategy in progress
	Priorities of Working Group forming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arc Prospectus Review – develop investment plan</li> <li>• Support and oversight of Arc Innovation Programme</li> <li>• Arc Internationalisation Plan</li> <li>• Arc Renewal Strategy Coordination</li> </ul>		Arc Skills Group – working with FE/HE Groups and business to establish more direct business engagement into potentially an Arc-wide Skills Network. Looking to set up an integrated collaboration to explore where value can be added working at scale.	We had a great Energy Innovation Theme workshop led by Professor [REDACTED] to start work on an energy strategy for the area  FE Principals meeting took place in January with 3 main discussion topics to continue and an offer from UWL to work on a case study on how HE & FE can align themselves and work in harmony	FE Principals meetings will take place on a monthly basis
	Arc Further Education Group  Major Innovation programme: Space, Aviation, Life Sciences, Energy, Mobility		Launching Arc Internationalisation Plan at UKREiiF event.  Henham Strategy was appointed for the work, a scope and timeline have now been agreed and weekly meetings scheduled to keep progress, with physical meetings	May/June tbc	In progress

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			<p>across the arc in the planning. The consultants will work towards producing an implementation plan as well as producing the Internationalisation Plan</p> <p>■■■■■s working with ■■■■■ on supporting with speakers and themes ideas</p> <p>Innovate UK are planning an Innovate Local event in June, and working with ■■■■■ among other partners for their event to be part of a wider Innovation Week across the Arc.</p>		<p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>
<b>Strategic Place</b>	Feed into Arc Spatial Framework	■■■■■	Regular liaison with Arc Unit on programme and engagement	Prepared draft submission. Agreed by Plenary on 08/10/21. Submitted to Government on 12/10/21. Currently awaiting feedback from the Arc Unit on the Vision consultation responses and on progress with the Data Observatory.	On-going. Awaiting clarity from Government about the next steps and timetable for the Arc Spatial Framework.
	Establish an Arc Strategic Planning Working Group and work programme	■■■■■	Terms of Reference, core purpose/priorities, membership and detailed work programme in development following discussion at SPWG on 18/01/22.	No target dates as yet.	In progress.

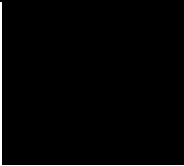
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<b>Environment</b>	Environment Principles	[REDACTED]	Shared Arc Environment Principles endorsed and going through local partners for support.	No target date set	In progress
	Arc Environment Delivery Framework	[REDACTED]	<p>Doubling Nature report signed off by Leaders on 8 October.</p> <p>A 'Rural Proofing' Task and Finish Group is in the process of being established. It will input into work on a cross cutting basis, to ensure that the rural dimension is properly considered.</p> <p>A bid was submitted under the Trees – Call for Action funding stream, which was unsuccessful. However, it has stimulated the idea of establishing an 'Arc Forest Park' in the heart of England, focused on the Arc, but potentially reaching from the Severn to the Wash. Further work to develop this idea will be undertaken.</p> <p>Further Task and Finish Groups are emerging as work strands and the EWG will be drafting responses to the Spatial Framework and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultations</p>	<p>By October</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Not yet confirmed</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>In progress</p>
		[REDACTED]	The Government has recently issued consultations on Biodiversity Net Gain and related matters. A Task and Finish Group is likely to be set up to comment on these.	Jan/Feb 2022	In progress
	Green Arc	[REDACTED]	Campaign developed but on hold pending next steps for Arc Leadership Group.	On hold	On hold

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			Interest in supporting Arc Climate Change Task Force from Environment, Economy Working Groups and Energy Network	Enlisting interested individuals to take part in roundtable discussion on purpose and scope of such a group.	Getting volunteers through next round of Working Groups
<b>Infrastructure</b>	Establish Arc-wide Infrastructure Strategy		<p>Task and Finish group has been established to develop a set of Infrastructure Principles to sit alongside the Environment Principles. Existing infrastructure strategies within the Arc have been mapped in a summary document.</p> <p>The Arc Infrastructure Principles (AIP) document was warmly received and approved by the Infrastructure Group during the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> September. The principles have been circulated to the Strategic Place Group, where helpful comments have been received, and have also been circulated to the EWG and to the ALG officers.</p> <p>The current text of the Arc Infrastructure Principles was discussed at the Arc Plenary meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January. The group felt that some adjustments to the principles would be necessary before they could be published. Follow-up discussions will be had to take these comments on board, and get the document ready for</p>	To be launched in early / mid 2022. Revised copy will be presented to future Plenary or Chief Executives groups, depending on how quickly feedback is received.	Nearly completed

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			<p>sign off. Work on the designed version of the document has progressed well, with the document now more concise and better structured, and with more suitable images.</p> <p>An outline plan for an Arc Infrastructure Strategy is also being developed by the group, setting out what the objectives, structure, governance and data requirements of an Arc Infrastructure Strategy might be.</p> <p>A first draft of this was discussed at the AIG at the 26 January 2022 meeting. The group was in general supportive of the idea of joined up working, but noted that a uniform strategy for all parts of the Arc would not be appropriate, and that the strategy should focus on identifying opportunities for joint working. It was also noted that such a project would be dependent on steer from government. The concept will continue to be refined and discussed at future meetings.</p> <p>Items for meetings in 2022 are currently being decided.</p>	<p>To be discussed further at the 9<sup>th</sup> March Arc Infrastructure Group.</p>	<p>Early stages draft in development.</p>
	<p>Arc Minerals and Waste T&amp;F group</p>		<p>The Arc Minerals and Waste group had its first meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 and was well attended by a range of stakeholders from eNGOs, LPAs, academics and the Mineral Products Association. The terms of reference for the</p>	<p>Second Minerals Principles draft circulated on 18<sup>th</sup> February, to be discussed at next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

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			<p>group were agreed, with additional comments taken on board. Following the first meeting, it was agreed that the group would, in summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- support the RSPB's Arc Minerals Restoration Project Proposal</li><li>- take a joint approach to minerals planning in the Arc (particularly demand and supply modelling)</li><li>- work towards creating a set of Minerals Planning Principles for the Arc. The aims of these are to increase visibility of minerals planning issues and encourage a joint approach across the Arc.</li></ul> <p>A first draft of these principles was presented at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Comments from the group were taken on board, and a revised, and more concise, set of principles has been recirculated for comments ahead of the next meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April.</p> <p>A copy of the group's TOR and membership list can be provided on request.</p>		
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<p><b>Communication &amp; Engagement</b></p>	<p>Communications and Engagement Programme</p>		<p>Comms Network met following January Plenary. Further 2022 dates to be set. Arc-ALG messages requested at January Plenary drafted, feeding into programme development. Media monitoring continues, located in comms network shared drive.</p> <p>ALG channels. Draft site development on hold.</p> <p>Future Arc campaign aims, audiences and actions under review, initial preparation for impending announcements awaiting Gov-ALG decisions. Liaising with Government comms lead continues.</p> <p>Official Arc brand assets transferred; draft protocol prepared for review.</p>	<p>Ongoing – Arc ALG collaboration messages drafted, awaiting review.</p> <p>Paused pending ALG programme decisions.</p> <p>On-going as part of developing Arc proposal and scenario planning.</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>On going</p> <p>On going</p> <p>Complete</p>
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